

Appl. No.: 10/072,789
Amdt. Dated 08/11/2005
Reply to Office action of May 24, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication that Claims 9-15 and 39-44 are allowed, Claim 16 would be allowable if rewritten to correct its dependency, and Claims 2, 8, 16, 34, 35 and 38 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to the undersigned during the telephonic interviews on August 10 and 11, 2005. The following is considered to be a summary of the matters discussed during the interviews.

Applicants have amended independent Claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of dependent Claim 8, have amended Claim 16 to correct its dependency, and have amended independent Claim 32 to incorporate the limitations of dependent Claim 2. As a result of these amendments, Applicants have canceled Claim 8 and have newly presented Claims 45-47, which depend from independent Claim 1 and incorporate the limitations from canceled Claims 4-6. Applicants request reconsideration of Claims 1-3, 7, 32-38, and 45-47 in view of the Amendments and Remarks set forth herein.

Objection to Claim 16

The Office Action objected to Claim 16, noting that the dependency of this claim should be Claim 9 instead of Claim 1. Applicants have amended the dependency of Claim 16 to depend from Claim 9. The Examiner's aid in resolving this issue is greatly appreciated.

The Rejections Directed to Claims 1, 3, 7, 32, 33, 36 and 37 Are Overcome

The Office Action rejected Claims 32, 33, and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 2,284,824 to Hungerford. The Office Action rejected Claims 1, 3, 7, 32, 33, 36, and 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over JP 11-051103. As discussed during the interview, Applicants have amended independent Claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of dependent Claim 8. Applicants have also presented new Claims 45-47, which depend from Claim 1 and incorporate the

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limitations of canceled Claims 4-6. Since the Office Action indicated that Claim 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, Applicants submit that amended independent Claim 1, and the claims depending therefrom, should be allowed.

Regarding independent Claim 32, as discussed during the interview, Applicants have amended Claim 32 to incorporate the limitations from independent Claim 1 and dependent Claim 2. Since the Office Action indicated that Claim 2 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, Applicants submit that amended independent Claim 32, and the claims depending therefrom, should be allowed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-3 and 7-16 and 32-47 of the present application are in condition for allowance. It is respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued in due course. Examiner Wyszomierski is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present application.

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It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

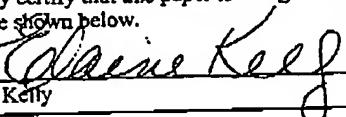
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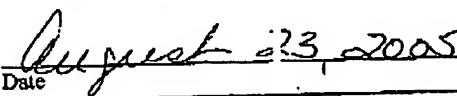

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Elaine Kelly


Date

CLT01/4738018v1